

News Release



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State Parks, Riders Partner on Carnegie OHV Recreation

In preparation for a future expansion of the facility, a Task Force of off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and State Park representatives has been created to provide recommendations on critical resource issues and other park improvements at the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

“State Parks is committed to supporting our riding constituency at Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area,” said David L. Widell, deputy director of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks. “However, we are also committed to smart planning that ensures success and assists in our efforts to move ahead with the expansion of Carnegie.”

A proposed expansion of the SVRA would require an amendment to the Carnegie SVRA General Plan. Under the amendment, the 3,477-acre Alameda/Tesla property would be added to the existing General Plan which covers 1,540 acres. The proposal would dedicate about 62 percent of the 3,477 acres to OHV recreation, while the actual land dedicated to recreation facilities would comprise about 45 acres of the total 3,477 acres.

The Alameda/Tesla property does not have a history of off-highway vehicle use. Widell said this would mark the first opportunity for the OHV program to develop an environmentally sensitive plan for OHV recreation without influence by already established patterns of public use.

“Over the course of the next year, I will be working with Carnegie’s riders and staff so that we can deliver on commitments made in the past which, unfortunately, do not reflect some of the unique challenges we face today,” said Widell.

The Task Force will prepare and begin implementation of a short term plan to address Carnegie’s most critical resource needs, including trail maintenance, soil and water quality standards along Corral Hollow Creek, as well as short and long term actions designed to address existing issues within the park’s current General Plan. The Task Force will include park management and field staff, and representatives from the OHV community.

Establishment of the Carnegie Task Force was one of the main elements to come out of a workshop conducted by the OHMVR Division on May 12. Riders came to the workshop to voice their concerns about delays in the expansion of the facility, yet agreed to work with State Parks to help address pressing issues at the existing park in advance of taking the proposal back to the OHMVR Commission for review and action.

. “We are excited to finally see some significant enhancement at Carnegie,” said Bill Dart, legislative officer for American Motorcyclists Association, District 36. “Through the Task Force, riders’ issues will be addressed, as well as environmental compliance within the park. This is a long overdue step,” said Dart, a member of the OHV Stakeholders Roundtable.

The area of the present-day park was used for years primarily for cattle grazing. Residents of Tracy and Livermore also used the area for family picnics until the 1960s when the privately owned Carnegie Cycle Park was established. It continued to operate until 1979 when the State bought the area to create the Carnegie SVRA.

Carnegie is located in eastern Alameda County and western San Joaquin County, east of Livermore and west of Tracy.

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